

# Behavioral Health is Essential To Health



Prevention Works



Treatment is Effective



People Recover



# Community Management of Opioid Overdose: the WHO Guidelines

**Exploring Naloxone Uptake and Use  
Review of the Current Use of Naloxone**

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# Key Questions Identified

- 1) Should naloxone be distributed to people who are likely to witness an overdose?**
- 2) What formulation of naloxone should be used in the management of opioid overdose in the pre-hospital setting?**
- 3) What dose of naloxone should be used initially in the management of opioid overdose?**

# Questions Identified – cont.

- 4) Should the resuscitation response to suspected opioid overdose be based on standard CPR or chest compressions only CPR?**
- 5) What should be the response to opioid overdose after administration of naloxone and successful reversal of overdose in the community?**

# Critical Outcomes

**Overdose mortality**

**Overdose complication**

**Overdose morbidity**

**Time to administration of naloxone**

**Time to overdose reversal**

# Important Outcomes

- **Opioid withdrawal reaction to naloxone**
- **Blood borne infection transmitted through unsafe injection**
- **Unsafe injection related injury**
- **Adverse effect of resuscitation**
- **Psychosocial intervention/referral to treatment**



# Additional Considerations

- **Benefits and harms**
- **Values and preferences**
- **Feasibility**
  - *Additional scientific literature and contextual information not systematically searched.*
  - *Key informant interviews.*

# Recommendation 1: Strong

- **People likely to witness an opioid overdose should have access to naloxone and be instructed in its administration.**
  - *People at risk for overdose, their friends and family.*
  - *People whose work brings them into contact with people who overdose.*



# Recommendation 2: Conditional

- **Persons using naloxone should select a route of administration based on**
  - *the formulation available,*
  - *their skills,*
  - *the setting and local context.*

# Recommendation 3: Strong

- **In suspected opioid overdose, first responders should focus on**
  - *airway management,*
  - *assisting ventilation and*
  - *administering naloxone.*

# Recommendation 4: Strong

- **After successful resuscitation following administration of naloxone, the level of consciousness and breathing of the affected person should be closely observed until full recovery has been achieved.**

# Planned Evaluation

- **Number of countries**
  - *that implement programs to increase the availability of naloxone and provide training in the management of opioid overdose to people likely to witness an opioid overdose;*
  - *in which naloxone is available for out-of-hospital care by paramedics;*
  - *that produce guidelines consistent with these WHO guidelines;*
- **WHO survey of resources for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders;**
- **Number of references to the WHO guidelines in the medical literature;**
- **Measurement of opioid overdose deaths and the proportion of witnessed opioid overdoses that are fatal.**

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